

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of providing an automatic route selection  
2 (ARS) service comprising the steps of:

3 implementing an ARS table in a location  
4 external to a telephone switch;

5 operating a service control point to access  
6 said ARS table and to determine as a function of  
7 information included therein a route index; and

8 transmitting a message to a signal switching  
9 point including the route index.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the signal switching  
2 point is a telephone switch which is coupled to a  
3 plurality of trunks over which calls can be routed, the  
4 method further comprising:

5 operating said telephone switch to route a call  
6 over a trunk identified by the route index included in  
7 said message.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said message is one  
2 of a Forward\_Call message and an Analyze\_Route message.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2 using a conditional logic operation performed  
3 by said service control point in addition to information  
4 included in the ARS table to determine the route index  
5 from a plurality of possible route indices.

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1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said ARS table is  
2 implemented at said service control point.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said ARS table  
2 includes route selection information for a first ARS  
3 service subscriber, the method further comprising:  
4 providing an additional ARS table in said  
5 telephone switch, the additional ARS table also including  
6 route selection information for the first ARS service  
7 subscriber; and

8 using said additional ARS table to perform an  
9 automatic route selection operation when providing a  
10 switch based telephone service to the first ARS service  
11 subscriber.

1 7. A method of providing an automatic route selection  
2 service using a service control point, the method  
3 comprising:

4 receiving automatic route selection service  
5 information corresponding to a service subscriber; and  
6 selecting a method for implementing the  
7 automatic route selection service for the service  
8 subscriber, from a plurality of different implementation  
9 methods, as a function of type of telephone switch which  
10 serves as an end office switch for said service  
11 subscriber, a first one of the plurality of different  
12 implementation methods using a switch based automatic  
13 route selection table, a second one of the plurality of

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14 different implementation methods using a non-switch based  
15 automatic route selection table; and  
16 incorporating automatic route selection  
17 information used to implement the selected automatic  
18 route selection method into a call processing record  
19 accessible by a service control point.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the non-switch based  
2 automatic route selection table is implemented in a  
3 service control point.

1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising, following  
2 said incorporating step when said second method of  
3 implementing an automatic route selection service is  
4 selected:

5 operating the service control point to  
6 determine from an automatic route selection table, using  
7 call information received from a telephone switch, a  
8 telephone trunk identifier; and  
9 transmitting the telephone trunk identifier  
10 determined from the automatic route selection table to a  
11 telephone switch.

1 10. The method of claim 9,  
2 wherein the telephone trunk identifier is a  
3 route index; and  
4 wherein the transmitted message is one of a  
5 Forward\_Call message and an Analyze\_Route message.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein selecting a method  
2 for implementing the automatic route selection service  
3 for the service subscriber, is further performed as a  
4 function of the complexity of the automatic route  
5 selection logic required to provide the automatic route  
6 selection service to the service subscriber.

1 12. A system for providing an automatic route selection  
2 service to an automatic route selection service  
3 subscriber, the system comprising:  
4 a telephone switch coupled to a telephony  
5 device used by said subscriber; and  
6 a service control point coupled to said  
7 telephone switch, the service control point including  
8 control logic used to access a non-switch based automatic  
9 route selection table as part of a service control point  
10 based automatic route selection service provided to said  
11 service subscriber.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the service control  
2 point includes said non-switch based automatic route  
3 selection table.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the non-switch based  
2 automatic route selection table includes at least one  
3 portion of a telephone number and a corresponding route  
4 index.

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1 15. The system of claim 15, wherein the route index  
2 identifies at least one trunk line coupled to said  
3 telephone switch.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein said telephone  
2 switch includes a switch based automatic route selection  
3 table used by said switch to provide a switch based  
4 automatic route selection service to said service  
5 subscriber.

1 17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:  
2 an advanced intelligent network trigger set at  
3 said switch, the advanced intelligent network trigger  
4 being responsive to calls initiated by said subscriber;  
5 and

6 means for sending a message to the service  
7 control point in response to activation of said trigger.

1 18. The system of claim 17,  
2 wherein at least a portion of said control  
3 logic is included in a call processing record associated  
4 with the service subscriber; and

5 wherein said service control point includes:

6 means for accessing the call  
7 processing record associated with the service  
8 subscriber in response to a message sent from  
9 said switch in response to activation of said  
10 trigger.

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1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the service control  
2 point is implemented as part of an integrated service  
3 control point, the integrated service control point  
4 further including:

5 means for selecting a method for implementing  
6 the automatic route selection service for the service  
7 subscriber, from a plurality of different implementation  
8 methods, as a function of type of telephone switch which  
9 serves as an end office switch for said service  
10 subscriber, a first one of the plurality of different  
11 implementation methods using a switch based automatic  
12 route selection table, a second one of the plurality of  
13 different implementation methods using a non-switch based  
14 automatic route selection table.